

‘Gon Muang’ with Ante-*Bābhel Daii* and *Lanna*, TExed

Gon Muang
by
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The word *Gon Muang* is a *Lanna* word which means exactly as it says, that is ‘national person’ or ‘national people’, hence a citizen or citizens. Unfortunately the same word slightly differently written, ‘Gon Muang’, is *Daii* and means ‘city dweller’ as contrasted with *Gon Jonbod*, that is ‘rural folks’ or farmers. Since *Lanna* is now annexed to *Daii* the *Daiis* would argue from this that *Lannas* are conceited people, which could not be any further from the truth. Of course *Daiis* are arguably the more treacherous between the two but we are talking about languages here and *Lanna* being older should have the priority. This is not to mention the fact that also here they are using their own language to describe *themselves* not anyone else.

The word *Lanna* also is often mistaken to be *Lānna*, the former is simply ‘the rice field’ whereas the latter is ‘a million rice fields’; similarly the land of *Laōs* was formerly called *Lānjāng*, ‘Elephant ground’, not *Lānjāng*.

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